

**JAMES CITY COUNTY
DRAFT 2013 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Part I. Legislation to be Introduced on Behalf of the County

1-1. PROTECT VIEWSHEDS OF HISTORIC AND SCENIC RIVERS

Amend Virginia Code § 10.1-419 (B) to provide that putting utility lines underwater is a reasonable alternative solution to be considered in planning for the use and development of water and related land resources which changes the character of a stream or waterway or destroys its historic, scenic or ecological values.

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Part II. Position/Legislation Supported by the County

2-1. STATE FUNDING FOR TOURISM

The County urges the General Assembly to increase funding for the Virginia Tourism Corporation (“VTC”) to promote tourism in Virginia generally, and the Historic Triangle in particular.

2-2. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

James City County urges the General Assembly to address critical transportation infrastructure needs. Transportation should be addressed as a statewide issue rather than a regional or local issue.

2-3 SUPPORT URBAN CRESCENT’S EFFORTS TO MAKE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING A PRIORITY

James City County supports the “Statement of Purpose” proposed by the localities of the Urban Crescent (Northern Virginia, Richmond area and Hampton Road) which asserts the need for further state investment in transportation infrastructure spending for all transportation modes.

2-4. MAINTENANCE OF NEW AND EXISTING SECONDARY ROADS

James City County opposes any legislation that would transfer to counties the responsibilities to construct, maintain or operate new or existing roads without adequate state funding.

2-5. APPLICATION OF TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX TO TRAVEL COMPANIES AND INTERNET SALES

James City County supports a clarification of Virginia Code § 58.1-3819 et seq., to make sure that the transient occupancy tax applies to the entire amount charged for rooms by travel companies and on Internet sales regardless of any discounted rates paid by such companies for such rooms. This would provide equal taxing of room sales by Virginia businesses and Internet sales companies.

2-6. ENHANCE RAIL SERVICE ON THE PENINSULA AND TO RICHMOND

The County supports improving commuter rail system from Richmond through the Peninsula to connect urban centers for commuters and provide transportation alternatives for tourism.

2-7. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT (“CSA”) FUNDING

James City County urges the General Assembly to: 1) adequately fund the Medicaid waiver program to reduce the waiting list of individuals and families now eligible for services; 2) provide services to children with serious emotional disorders; and 3) to cover reasonable administrative costs for CSA programs. Adequate funding and services will help prevent the mentally ill from being released early from treatment, living on the streets, going to jail, or being inappropriately placed in residential facilities or other government programs.

2-8. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

James City County supports maintaining State funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment in jails and juvenile detention facilities given the overwhelming percentage of adults and juveniles in the system diagnosed with mental health and/or substance abuse conditions.

2-9. TAX EQUITY BETWEEN CITIES AND COUNTIES

James City County supports equal taxing authority for cities and counties.

2-10. STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, PRE-K, K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION

The County supports restoring the funding cuts made to pre-K and K-12 funding. In addition, the County supports restoring the funding cuts made to higher education which could cripple some of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the world, including the College of William & Mary.

2-11. ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

James City County supports the State maintaining funding to public libraries to make sure that the State and the localities maintain their proportionate share of funding.

2-12. END LOCAL AID TO THE COMMONWEALTH

The County supports legislation that would end “local aid to the Commonwealth.”

2-13. NO NEW STATE MANDATES AND ELIMINATE OR ADEQUATELY FUND EXISTING STATE MANDATES

Given the difficult budget year faced by the Commonwealth and localities, James City County calls upon the General Assembly to oppose unfunded mandates and to reduce existing State mandates commensurate with any reduction in State funding to localities. This is consistent with Governor McDonald’s initiative to reduce imposing unfunded mandates on localities.

2-14. PROVIDE STATE FUNDING TO MITIGATE ENCROACHMENT OF AIRFIELD SURROUNDING JOINT BASE LANGLEY-FORT EUSTIS

James City County supports the initiative to provide state funding for the land acquisition program supporting mitigation of encroachment around Langley Air Force Base (now Joint Base Langley-Fort Eustis).

2-15. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS OF THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES AND THE VIRGINIA COALITION OF HIGH GROWTH COMMUNITIES

James City County supports the legislative programs of the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Coalition of High Growth Communities.